AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

In the Specification: [Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter (or double square brackets "[[]]" if the strikethrough is not easily perceivable, *i.e.*, "4" or a punctuation mark) and underlined for added matter.]

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 1, line 1 as follows:

~~CLAIM OF PRIORITY~~

~~This document claims priority to and the benefit of the filing date of co-pending and commonly assigned provisional application entitled "A METHOD FOR CALCULATING AND DISPLAYING A RECOMMENDED PORT SPEED", filed February 14, 2000, attorney docket number 061606-8470, and incorporated herein by reference.~~

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 8, line 5 as follows:

The port trend analysis system provides an improvement to a communication management system, wherein the port trend analysis system calculates and presents to a network administrator or a network engineer various views of the performance of the port and recommendations for port speed increases or decreases. This information enables the network administrator or network engineer to determine whether port speed is adequate, or whether the traffic characteristics through the port can be expected to ~~the~~ degrade the level of performance of the network such that an increase in port speed is required. A graphical user interface and a display system may display a port trend analysis report. A port trend analysis report may include a graphical view of data traffic through the port in terms of the size of bursts, which may be categorized into burst ranges, may include the number of bits transmitted in each burst range, and may include a trend in the changes of data transmissions for each burst range. Also, the port trend analysis system may recommend a specific change in port speed based upon the calculated trends.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 10, line 25 as follows:

In the context of this document, a "computer-readable medium" can be any means that can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. The ~~computer-readable~~ computer-readable medium can be, for example but not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared, or semiconductor system, apparatus, device, or propagation medium. More specific examples (a nonexhaustive list) of the computer-readable medium would include the following: an electrical connection (electronic) having one or more wires, a portable computer diskette (magnetic), a random access memory (RAM) (electronic), a read-only memory (ROM) (electronic), an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM or Flash memory) (electronic), an optical fiber (optical), and a portable compact disc read-only memory (CDROM) (optical). Note that the computer-readable medium could even be paper or another suitable medium upon which the program is printed, as the program can be electronically captured, via for ~~instance~~ instance, optical scanning of the paper or other medium, then compiled, interpreted or otherwise processed in a suitable manner if necessary, and then stored in a computer memory.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 13, line 18 as follows:

Data poller 66 collects burst statistics, such as the number of bits transmitted within each burst range of data, for the port being monitored. An apparatus and method for accumulating burst statistics is disclosed in commonly assigned co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/118,106, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CHARACTERIZING BURST INFORMATION," filed on July 17, 1998, and which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Data poller 66 supplies burst statistics information over connection 72 to database 74. In the preferred embodiment, burst statistics are associated with the direction of travel of the data burst (Tx or Rx). The historical burst statistics data residing in database 74 may be collected over any period of time that is pertinent to the user, such as, for example, a number of weeks or months. Such a pertinent time period residing in database 74 is referred to herein as the historical period. In some cases, adequate burst statistics may be obtained in as few as four complete summary periods (described hereinafter). However, the accuracy of the analysis typically improves as additional burst statistics data are obtained and saved in the historical

period. Since the usage of a particular port may vary seasonally or otherwise cyclically over long periods of time, the particular historical periods may be specified in one embodiment of the port trend analysis system 62 by the user, thereby increasing the relevance of the data residing in the historical period. Periods of little interest (such as, for example, periods outside normal business hours) may be excluded from a historical period in order to optimize data storage in database 74. One skilled in the art will realize that the amount of data that can be stored in the historical period will be determined by the size of the storage capability of database 74. Methods of storing data, methods of recycling out old data from the historical period and methods of cycling in of new data into the historical period may be accomplished in any variety of techniques commonly employed in the art of data management without adversely impacting the functionality of the port trend analysis system 62. Also, historical data for multiple ports may be saved to database 74. This additional data enables alternative embodiments of the ~~Processor~~ processor 64 to prepare port trending reports for a plurality of ports using only one database 74.